

## Life expectancy user consultation

In April 2023, NRS carried out a user consultation about the publication of life expectancy in Scotland for 2020-2022. To calculate life expectancy estimates, we need three years of deaths data and three years of mid-year population estimates. Because the population data from Scotland's census is not yet available, there is no mid-year population estimate available for 2022, which means that life expectancy cannot be calculated as normal this year.

We offered two different options for the publication of the 2020-2022 life expectancy estimates.

Option one: We publish estimates at the usual time in September 2023 using mid-year population estimates for 2020 and 2021 and population projections for 2022. These will be provisional figures which will be revised along with the back series once the census population data is available. These figures will include estimates for Scotland, council areas and NHS health board areas but not SIMD, urban-rural classification or Scottish Parliamentary constituencies.

Option two: We do not publish any estimates in 2023 and instead wait until the 2022 census based mid-year estimates are ready. We then publish the estimates for 2020-2022 along with a revised back series.

The consultation ran for just over a month and we asked users which publication option better suited their needs and why. We received 17 responses from a wide range of organisations. Eleven respondents (65%) preferred option one, to publish provisional figures in 2023. Of the six who preferred option two, none offered any strong reasons why publishing in 2023 would be detrimental .

Based on the results of this consultation, we intend to publish provisional estimates of life expectancy in September 2023. We also expect to do the same for healthy life expectancy at a later date. These estimates will be superseded by revised estimates which will be published once the appropriate census data is available.